



Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

On February 7 & 8, fifty-eight professional flight instructors gathered in Helena to partake in 16 hours of current issues for flight instructors and recertification with Greg Gorak of Gaits Aviation Seminars.

In order for CFIs to recertify, the course has to be approved by the FAA, topics are specific and cover teaching effectively, human factors, practical test standards, flight safety, weather, current events and issues, advanced training, the FARs and professionalism.

From the evaluations the group study sessions were everybody's favorite, Greg splits the class up into groups of about six instructors and gives each group factual situations and has the groups decide whether or not it is legal under the FARs and to back up the answer with the regulation, this part gets really interesting because of the disagreements on the FAA interpretations.

The Helena FAA has greatly supported the refresher clinic with Jim Cooney, Safety Program Manager, presenting a safety session and Carol Henry, Aviation Safety Technician, working late into the night and on the weekend in order to issue the temporary flight instructor refresher certificates.



Instructor Greg Gorak & Maria Gorak of Gaits Aviation Seminars, Inc. put together another great program for instructors.



Arne Scarpholt, Glendive; Dick Webb, Billings; Harry Anderson, Missoula; and Lindsay Sorenson, Bozeman work on a group project "The Federal Regulations".

FIRC participants, (l-r) Joe Guthrie, Huson; Ruthmary Lovitt, Polson; Jeanne MacPherson & Debbie Alke, Montana Aeronautics; Doug Parrott, Roundup; Arne Scarpholt, Glendive and Glenn Wash, Broadus.



Administrator's Column

During this time of war and uncertainty support for our troops, their families and the country's leaders is utmost on our minds. To those of you with friends, family members and co-workers directly involved with the war efforts in the U.S. as well as, in the Middle East our thoughts are with you. ➔

Meigs Field Destroyed: Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago launched his own shock and awe campaign shortly after midnight on March 31, construction equipment with police escort arrived at Meigs Field to address "homeland security issues" at the airport. City crews dug six huge "X's" deep into the runway's surface. The action effectively closed the airport, stranding nearly a dozen aircraft on the ramp, despite an agreement struck last year between Mayor Richard Daley and former Governor George Ryan to keep the airport open at least until 2006. The move caught everyone by surprise, including state legislators, the FAA and controllers who work the tower on the field. Six general aviation groups signed a letter to President Bush expressing the community's "shock and outrage" over Mayor Daley's use of national security as an excuse to demolish Meigs Field. The letter asks the President to "reaffirm federal authority over security matters affecting the nation's air transportation system." ➔

Pilot Revocation Update: Members of the House aviation subcommittee last week grilled FAA Administrator Marion Blakey about the new federal rule allowing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to order the revocation of a pilot's certificate if the TSA determines the pilot is a security risk. During a hearing about the FAA's plans for its future operations and airport funding, Rep. Robin Hayes (NC), a pilot, told Blakey the new TSA rule is "onerous and impractical" and doesn't accomplish much for the burden it creates. Fellow pilot Rep. Steve Pearce (NM) told the administrator, "We should have learned something from the Hoover debacle," referring to famed pilot Bob Hoover's long effort to have his medical certificate reinstated after it was pulled for questionable reasons. Pearce encouraged Blakey to examine the possible repercussions of the TSA's pilot certificate revocation rule. ➔

Small Community Air Service Hearing: House Transportation Aviation subcommittee members traveled to Portland, OR – home state of ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, Peter DeFazio – to hear directly from state officials about service to small communities. Deregulation has boosted passenger growth and cut ticket prices, subcommittee Chairman John Mica said, but "many small and medium sized communities located throughout the nation" have not seen its benefits. Members of Congress were urged to use reauthorization to boost small community air service in a time of industry recession. Aviation officials from Oregon offered the following suggestions: a multi-year reauthorization program to assist airport operators in advancing critical infrastructure projects; allowing unused Non-Primary Airport Entitlement Grants to remain with the state instead of being turned back to the federal government; expansion of grants issued through the Small Community Air Service Development Program; and addressing existing barriers to regional carriers, such as code-share limitations and high insurance costs. ➔

Creative Cost Savings Plan: Southwest Airlines will become the latest "Gate Services" operation at its Tampa station as part of a plan to cut the amount of fuel its Boeing 737s use while sitting at the gate. The gate service stations save money by using electrical power from its gate facilities on the ground, rather than from the aircraft's auxiliary power unit. Southwest estimated that the annual savings could amount to roughly \$5 million, as well as eight million gallons of fuel. ➔



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Calendar

April 26, 2003 - EAA Chapter 517 Breakfast and Young Eagles Day, Stevensville Airport.

May 11-17, 2003 - Montana Pilots Association On Line Auction. Go to: www.montanapilots.org. See page 6 of newsletter for further information.

June 7, 2003 - EAA Chapter 517 BBQ & hangar dedication, Stevensville Airport. For more information see www.eaa517.org.

June 14, 2003 - Billings EAA/MPA Young Eagles Day. Fly-in breakfast, young eagle rides, west end hangars; 8:00 am start. For info call Larry Mayer 657-1391.

June 15, 2003 - Annual Father's Day poor-boy sourdough pancake breakfast, Beacon Star.

June 18-21, 2003 - Montana Antique Airplane Association Air Tour.

July 12, 2003 - Missoula Air Show featuring the Thunderbirds.

July 12, 2003 - Fly-in Breakfast & Toy Show - Big Sandy Airport.

July 17-20, 2003 - Vectren Dayton Air Show, Dayton Ohio. For further information phone (937) 898-5901, or www.daytonairshow.com.

August 7-9, 2003 - Montana Antique Airplane Association annual fly-in, Three Forks Airport.

August 8-10, 2003 - Northwest Mountain Family Fly-in, McCall, Idaho. For further information phone Frank Lester (208) 334-8780 or John Goostrey (800) 453-0001 ext. 225 or one line at familyflyin.net or www.faa.gov/fsdo/boi.

August 10, 2003 - Stagger Wing fly-in pancake breakfast, Seeley Lake Airport. For further information phone Geanette Cebulski at (406) 677-3423.

August 15 - 17, 2003 - Montana Fun Weekend, Cut Bank International Airport. Event contacts - Car show and car events, Roy Nollkamper (406) 873-2137/5566/450-1078; Airplane fly in and aircraft events, Dennis Lenoir (406) 873-2221; Vendors, booths and general event information, Dave Anderson (406) 873-5616.

August 28-30, 2003 - INAC annual conference, Kelowna, BC.

Gallatin Field Debt Free

The Gallatin Airport Authority recently paid off the remaining \$1,062,043 of its 1993 airline terminal bond issue allowing the airport to become debt free for the first time since 1959.

Gallatin Field is completely self-supported and has required no local county tax support for the past twelve years. The airport generates its operating revenue from several sources such as landing fees, fuel flowage fees, rents and concession fees.

Large capital improvement projects are paid for through a combination of internal airport funds, proceeds from a federal tax on airline tickets, airfreight, aircraft fuel and parts and a \$3.00 passenger facility charge.

This year, the airport will spend over \$4.3 million on major construction projects including the resurfacing of the main runway, expansion of the airline terminal and cooperation with the City of Belgrade to expand city and airport water and sewer facilities. Local contractors will build most of these projects. Private building construction on airport property this year will top \$2 million.

Gallatin Field is served by 5 scheduled airlines and has 205 based general aviation aircraft. Over 400 people are employed by private businesses and public agencies at the airport.

Aviation Professionals Captivate Students



More than 100 students attended the aviation career panel that was held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference. After receiving a warm welcome from Governor Judy Martz the students listened to a top-notch panel of aviation professionals. Thank you to Tom Carroll, Life Flight Helicopter Pilot; Art Dykstra, Charter Pilot and Flight Instructor; Dolan McDonald, Tanker Pilot & lead plane for the Forest Service; Dave Kimball, Head of the Aviation Department, Rocky Mountain College; Patrick Altenbrun, Airline Pilot; Rena Smith, Instructor at Helena College of Technology Aviation Department; Captain Jason Green and Captain Scott Smith, F-16 Pilots 120th Fighter Wing; Jeanne MacPherson, Young Eagles Pilot, Aviation Educator; and Len Wheeler, Helena Flight Standards District Office the audience was captivated by your awesome careers!

Montana Aviation Conference



Martin Elshire & Gary Wirrell, Aerotronics Inc.

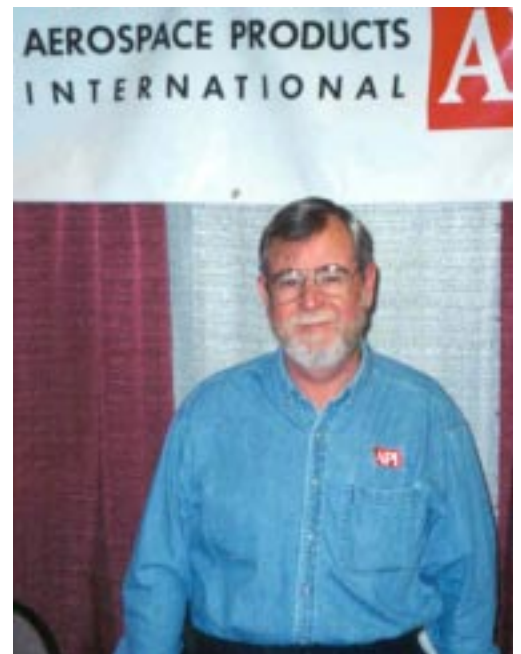


Dick Jacob, Northwest Propeller Service, Inc.



Aaron Lemery, EDMO Distributors' Inc.

This year's aviation conference attracted 53 exhibitors from all over the US and Canada. We thank them all for their support in helping make this year's conference another big success. Thanks to Aerospace Products International, Aerotronics Inc., Air BP, Aircraft Finishing Systems, Aircraft Technical Publishers, AirLifeLine, Angel Flight West, AOPA, Avfuel Corp., Aviall Inc., Caledonian Insurance Group Inc., Chadwick-Helmuth, City Service, Cross Petroleum Service, EDMO Distributors' Inc., Engine Components Inc., Erect-A-Tube Inc, FAA, Facet International Inc., General Aviation News, Goodrich Avionics Systems, Hartwig Aircraft Fuel Cell Repair, Kelly Aerospace, Liberty Studios, Lycoming Engines, MAC Aircraft Engines & Propellers, Midland Bi-Fold Doors, Minuteman Aviation, Montana Aeronautics Division, Montana Antique Aircraft Association, Montana Aviation Trades Association, Montana Pilots Association, Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol, Mountain Air Insurance Service, Inc., Northern Skies Aviation, Northern Steel, Northstar Air Express, Northwest Propeller Service Inc., Omaha Airplane Supply, Plugguy, Red River State Bank, Regal Aviation Insurance, Robert Peccia & Associates, Rocky Mountain College, Selkirk Aviation, Stewart & Stevenson, Tdata Inc., Travel Marketing LLC, Helena College of Technology, Western Aircraft, Western Plains Machinery Co., Westminster College, Yellowstone JetCenter. Pictured are a few of the exhibitors that took time out of their busy schedules for a photo op!



Loren Lemen, Aerospace Products Intl.



Jim Ramsey, Chadwick-Helmuth



Rick Donaldson, Robert Peccia & Associates



Bill Robb, Northern Steel



Pictured Clockwise; Conference Participants have fun at the Friday evening dinner/dance, a special thanks to Northstar Air Express for the donation of your facilities. Donna Rogan and Clayton & Ken Wilhelm of Helena enjoy the exhibit area. Dr. Grady Bray was a big attraction with his talk on "Aviation Disasters Impact and Aftermath". Doug Parrott presents the \$1000 Parrott Family Scholarship to Matthew Cichosz, Belfrey, MT, Congrats Matthew! Lt. Col. Robert Schultz kept Friday lunch attendees well entertained with a humorous take on his F/A-18 ejection at 26,000 feet!!



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Just Some Of The Items To Bid On & Take Home

Satellite Phone from Stratos & Fred Lark Communications, Garmin 196, Lilja Rifle Barrel, Hiking Equipment, Fuel & more Fuel, Fun Weekend Getaways, Meals, Biennial Flight Reviews, Mountain Flying Instruction, Great Aviation Art by National Artists, Dog Sled Ride and Experience, Helicopter Ride, 1928 TravelAir Flight with Hank Galpin, Tour the Gallatin in a classic Waco, Jumpseat in Neptune Aviation Fire Bomber, Aerobatics With Dave Jarrett in Extra 300, Handheld Radio, Oil Changes for both the Car and the Plane, Prop Balancing, Power Tow Aircraft Tug, Wing Strut Cuffs, Shoes by H.S. Trask Sapphires, Aviation Headsets, Coffee Table Photo Books, Land Surveying, Air B.P. Model Planes, Big Creek Lodge in Idaho, Husky Floatplane Ride, The Backcountry Survival Tool – Pulaski's

Educators Make the Sky a Classroom

Montana Aeronautics Division presented make the sky your classroom "Challenge Education with Aviation" for Montana's educators at this year's aviation conference in Missoula. Twenty teachers came together for the three-day workshop that was free and offered OPI renewal credits or one graduate credit from the University of Montana. Montana Aeronautics Division also offered \$100.00 scholarships to assist with travel, and university credit costs.

One teacher reaches at a very minimum 20 students in the classroom, multiply that by twenty and the reach jumps to 400 young people! Kaye Ebelt of Missoula aviation/aerospace guru of Montana was the lead instructor of this year's teacher workshop, as always her enthusiasm is contagious!

Wilbur Wright (David Bixby) opened the workshop with aviation history "First Flight". Then teachers put their heads and hands into geometry by making kites, airplanes, boomerangs and rockets, aerodynamics; engineering; and the fine finesse of flight.



On Friday, the workshop moved to the Museum of Mountain Flying, where Jack Demmons gave a grand aviation history tour and talk on the smokejumpers of Montana. Kate Davis with "Raptors of the Rockies" presented aerodynamics of flight with her raptors, letting one raptor fly in the Museum. George Bailey with NASA, presented the "International Space Station", Kaye Ebelt guided the teachers through a flight plan and Karen Peterson demonstrated hot air balloons. Len Wheeler of the FAA was a part of the team with the flight simulator, as was Doug Vulcan, boomerang designer and flyer extraordinaire.

Saturday, Minuteman opened the doors to the teachers and Jeanne MacPherson and Rocky Mountain College flight department gave the teachers orientation flights. Thank you all for your part in the success of another great aviation education workshop!



Kathryn Read of Florence designed a Cessna airplane during the workshop.



Kate Davis, Florence; Marjie Sheehy, Box Elder; Renee Isono, Missoula and Doug Vulcan, Florence constructed kites using geometry.



Len Wheeler, FAA, partner in aviation education with flight simulator.



Teachers gathered in the Museum of Mountain Flying for Friday's sessions. Thanks so much to the Museum for their great support.

EAA Chapter 517 Acquires Hangar

EAA Chapter 517 of Missoula and the Five Valleys Area has acquired a hangar and Chapter House at the Stevensville Airport (32S). The members have renovated the hangar with insulation and sheet rock in the hangar bay and are developing a kitchen to provide facilities for meal events sponsored by the Chapter.

One goal in acquiring the hangar was to provide a location for Montana pilots and others interested in aviation to gather and swap stories and generally have a good time. The Chapter is sponsoring a fly-in/drive-in breakfast the Saturday following the Chapter monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month. On April 26, 2003, the Chapter will hold the first widely publicized breakfast, which will be held in conjunction with a Young Eagles Flight day. The Chapter will have the scheduled monthly breakfast come rain or shine, sleet or snow, as scheduled. Funds raised by the breakfast will provide funding for the

Chapter 517 hangar and the Youth Aviation Academies conducted for local youth each summer.

In addition to the breakfasts, Chapter 517 will have a BBQ and hangar dedication on June 7, 2003. More information will be available on this event and other Chapter 517 activities on their web site at www.eaa517.org.



Glacier Park International Airport has 40 used runway lights in good condition available to any Montana public use airport. Also available are 6 Comco airband mobile scanning radios used but in good condition, again available at no cost to any public use airport. Call 406-257-5994.

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